

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL.....NO. 121

AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
No. 666 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-third street and Broadway.—THE BIG BO-NANZA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Evans, Miss Davenport, Mrs. Gilbert. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

PARK THEATRE.
Broadway.—DUTY CROCKETT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Mayo. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

BOWERY THEATRE.
Bowery.—TRUE AS STEEL, at 8 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

BOTH'S THEATRE.
Corner of Twenty-third street and sixth avenue.—KENT-LEWIS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss Neilson. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
Fourth street near Fifth avenue.—LA JOLIE PAR-FOUR, at 8 P. M. Mrs. Almoe. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
Broadway, corner of Twenty-third street.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

TIVOLI THEATRE.
Eleventh street between Second and Third avenues.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.
Broadway.—ROAD TO RUIN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. McDonough, Miss Jeffery-Lewis. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL.
Sixteenth street.—LE STATUE INAGURANTE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

BOWERY OPERA HOUSE.
No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

WOOD'S MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner of Thirtieth street.—BLACK-EYED SNAKE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

THEATRE COMIQUE.
No. 816 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

GERMAN THEATRE.
Fourteenth street.—FALCKE BIEDERMAN, at 8 P. M.

ROMAN HIPPODROME.
Capitoline grounds, Brooklyn.—Two P. M. and 8 P. M.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.
West Fourteenth street.—Open from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

BRUOKLYN PARK THEATRE.
Fulton avenue.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 1:30 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be clear and warm, followed by light rain.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks exhibited less than usual activity or strength. Money on call was quoted at 3½ and 4 per cent. Gold closed at 115½ and foreign exchange was firm.

THE REVIVAL.—We give the opinions of several eminent clergymen on this subject to-day.

AND SO the faithful Commons at St. Stephen's decided not to discipline the London press.

IN Iowa they have convicted a former State Treasurer of embezzlement. This is a good beginning.

RACING IN ENGLAND.—We present to-day an interesting letter on the Craven meeting at Newmarket, and the results of the four days' racing from an American view.

VERY LITTLE COUNTERFEIT MONEY has been in circulation since the adoption of the national currency, but recently some rascals have been taking advantage of the general confidence to put spurious bills in circulation. One of these was caught yesterday and has been held for trial by Commissioner Shields.

THE COLLABORATE of General Spinner's excuse for sending only ten dollars in aid of the Mecklenburg Centennial celebration—that he had left his office as Treasurer of the United States a poor man—would seem to be that if he had enriched himself as other office-holders have done a much larger sum might have been expected of him. Should this idea generally obtain among our public men who grow rich at the expense of the people the Philadelphia Centennial will not be in any want of funds.

THAT LIVELY OLD GENTLEMAN, Baron Waldeck, has just died in Paris, in his one hundred and tenth year. For a century or so he was very active both in the social and artistic world, and he did not lose his interest in affairs up to the time of his death. In many respects Waldeck was a remarkable man, and especially in the patience he exhibited in remaining on this planet long after the friends of his youth—and of his age, too, for that matter—had gone to a brighter and a happier sphere.

MR. COMPTROLLER GREEN'S TEMPER has become so bad that, instead of attending to the public business, he often spends the time of the boards and commissions of which he is an official member talking like a fishwoman. In Mr. Salen H. Wales he found his match; but the Mayor is almost as powerless against his vituperation as Miss Angot's daughter in the hands of Mlle. Lango. At the meeting of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund yesterday Green talked so much and with so much violence that he seemed possessed of one of those traditional tongues which were said to be loose at both ends.

Governor Tilden and the City Charter—"Better Late than Never."

It is given out by Governor Tilden's friends, apparently by his authority, that he is preparing a special message recommending a thorough reorganization of our municipal government. We trust this is true. There is no subject on which the sagacity of the Governor could be more usefully employed. We only regret that he did not take this great subject in hand at an earlier stage of the session. We fear it is too late to do anything valuable before this Legislature adjourns, although there is no subject, not even canal reform, on which the necessity for early action is so urgent. This city comprises about one-fourth of the population of the State. It contains nearly one-half of the taxable property. The value of the rural property of the State is more than doubled by its nearness to so great and valuable a market as New York city. This city is the chief mart of the foreign commerce of the country and has close business relations with every State in the Union. It has been a painful surprise during the winter and spring that Governor Tilden, a resident of this metropolis, a lawyer whose extensive professional relations with various railroad interests have given him a clear perception of the importance of the city to the general commerce of the country, should have treated its wants with apparent indifference. Nobody knows better than he how scandalously this great city has been misgoverned. Nobody better understands the defects of its present charter. It seemed astonishing therefore, that he should permit the greater part of the session to pass without lifting a finger for the redress of its grievances and the rectification of abuses which have so long prevailed in its municipal administration. We rejoice if he is, at last, bestowing proper attention on this great subject. We pledge him our loyal support in any intelligent efforts he may make to give us a wise municipal government. We are sorry he begins so late, but we will not further reproach his tardiness if he will now lift this great subject into the prominence it deserves.

The friends authorized to speak for him express doubts whether the contemplated message will be sent in now or deferred till the next Legislature. We regret that he has given occasion for such a doubt. His plan, so far as he has foreshadowed it, requires no delay in the first steps. So far as it can be conjectured from what he has given out it contemplates the passage of a law authorizing him to appoint a commission of eminent citizens to frame a charter to be submitted to the people of the city for adoption. There is no reason why he should not ask the present Legislature to confer on him this authority. Governor Tilden has been too long conversant with the subject to need another year for sketching the outlines of a good charter, and the maturing of the details should be left to the capable men whom he will appoint as commissioners with the advantage of his suggestions in the progress of their work. The Legislature is entitled to know his chief points, his fundamental conceptions, before it passes such an act; but the minor provisions and adjustments should be left to the commission. The act ought to be passed before this session closes, with a provision for submitting the new charter to our citizens in the next election.

If it be true that the Governor's plan contemplates a submission of the charter to a vote of the people and makes its success depend on their acceptance it will vindicate the Governor's fidelity to the great principle of home rule. Such a plan—if this be the plan—is a full recognition of the right of the people of the city to determine the form of their local government. The project of a commission of competent men to frame a charter is preferable to the direct action of the Legislature, a majority of whose members know nothing of city affairs. We are quite willing to trust the selection of the commission to the untrammelled choice of the Governor. Such ex-Mayors of the city as Mr. Opdyke and Mr. Hoffman would be valuable members of the commission, because they would contribute ripe experience and practical knowledge of details. Tax Commissioner George H. Andrews would be a good member. One of our great property holders, like William B. Astor, some eminent lawyer of the standing of Mr. Everts, and even a practical politician like John Kelly, would be fit members of such a commission. It should be so composed as to give it the advantage of every variety of municipal experience, so that no important point could escape attention, but with such a ballast of high character and strong sense that crude or one-sided suggestions would be ruled out. A charter framed by such a commission would embody the most enlightened ideas on the subject of municipal government, and would doubtless be adopted by a great majority of our citizens. The plan of the commission should not be reported to a future Legislature for its sanction, but be submitted directly to the voters of the city. This would be home rule under the guidance of eminent practical wisdom. A charter thus framed and adopted should be superior to anything we can ever expect from rural legislators who know nothing of the city and whose ignorance makes them the easy dupes of artful and plausible demagogues who assume to represent the city.

We hope Governor Tilden will not spoil a great opportunity by that tendency to procrastination which is the infirm part of his character. The laurels he has won by his applauded assault on the Canal Ring have so strengthened his influence that he is in the best possible position for carrying any useful, non-partisan measure. If he asks this Legislature for authority to appoint a commission for framing a good charter, to be submitted to the people of the city in the next election, the Legislature will probably grant it. We are confident he would not compose such a commission exclusively of democrats. We are sure he would not put upon it nobodies destitute of experience in city affairs. The strong tendencies Governor Tilden has evinced to cultivate the approbation of the community at large are a guarantee that he would not abuse his power in so vital a matter. We hope his intended message will not be deferred. Let it have the advantage of the flush of his newly acquired popularity. We are confident that the press of the city will give him its unanimous and applauding support in a prompt attempt to rectify the crying evils of our present bad charter. Everybody will forest and condone his delay;

everybody will invoke blessings on his head if he will now at last exert his influence to secure to the city of his residence the best scheme of government which the wisest minds in our community can devise. Such a commission as he is understood to desire is better than any supposable charter framed by a committee of the Legislature. But Governor Tilden must not amuse and delude us by mere promises. We approve his views as we understand them, but we recognize no excuses for delay. This suffering community will not excuse him if he leaves our municipal government to founder on in its present chaotic confusion without asking measures of remedy from this Legislature.

An incidental benefit which will result from an immediate communication of Governor Tilden's foreshadowed message is the squelching of the projects for making Comptroller Green the autocrat of the city government. Generous minds may look with indulgence on Governor Tilden's wish to save an old friend, but there is no reason why the Governor or why anybody should favor the bills for making the Comptroller an autocrat in city affairs. If the Governor should send in his message now it would explode Green's ambitious projects. It would put an end to factious tampering with the charter and leave Green in the position of an officer whose term expires next autumn and who has not the slightest chance of a reappointment. Governor Tilden cannot be ignorant of Green's unpopularity, and should be willing to see him dropped at the expiration of his term, even though he is unwilling to sanction his removal before the term expires. From the moment that Governor Tilden sends in his intended message Green's bills will collapse and projected amendments of the charter will be postponed in deference to the radical changes expected from the Governor's commission. We sincerely hope that the Governor will relieve the existing muddle by communicating his message to the Legislature without unnecessary delay.

The Independence of Belgium.

A despatch, based upon the authority of the London Times, informs us that the Belgian government has answered the demand of Germany, to the effect that it should prosecute the person, Duchsene, on a charge of having contemplated the assassination of Prince Bismarck, by the explicit statement that the Belgian courts are incompetent to take proceedings. Our readers will remember that a complaint was addressed by Bismarck to Belgium to the effect that the delay in the prosecution of Duchsene was an injury to Germany, and that Belgium, as an act of good will, should reform its laws that they would take cognizance of these offences. In the comity of nations it very often happens that acts will occur upon the territory of one people annoying and injurious to the citizens of other countries. The sense of independence and sovereignty possessed by a free people prevents anything more than a remonstrance where the laws are insufficient. During the civil war America and American citizens were seriously injured by the acts of men who claimed the protection of the British flag. In defiance of all of our remonstrances on the subject Great Britain claimed that so long as her people did not break her laws and did not come within the law of extradition she could not consent to punish them for any act committed on American soil. Whatever we may have thought in our anger, no one now doubts that England took the proper and manly ground. England could not in self-respect, or with due regard to her own independence, submit to the dictation of America as to how she should deal with her own people. Nor would America consent to any interference from England in her municipal laws because of the Fenian acts, for instance, with the attempts to invade Canada from American soil. The demand of Prince Bismarck is a parallel case, the difference being that he represents the mighty power of Germany and deals with the slender, uncertain power of Belgium. Belgium has answered the demand of Bismarck with proper spirit. She has replied as becomes an independent nation. If this Duchsene has broken no Belgian law Germany has no right to ask Belgium to punish him. We think that in the position thus taken Belgium will be protected by the reason and common sense and good faith of the other great Powers.

Moving Day Considerations.

May Day comes again, though May time is still enveloped in the icy garments of winter. It was the custom in the olden days to formally welcome the summer season on the first of May with fresh flowers and green leaves, but this year we have none of these, and it is April instead of March that goes out more like the lion than the lamb. Moving day, however, comes with May Day whatever the weather, and on every hand in the metropolis there are signs that it has come to the denizens of New York once more. It really seems as if people refused to own or live in their own houses in this city for the mere pleasure of changing their abodes once a year. So strong is the spirit of moving day that even our wealthiest families change their residences every few years, the encroachments of business and the desire for better mansions being the explanation of the up-to-date movement of our population. Similar reasons govern the middle and poorer classes. Most families find themselves either better off or worse off as May Day comes round. If better they seek better homes, and if they have retrograded they are compelled to content themselves with less expensive quarters. In consequence of all this moving day is one of the necessary mutations of a growing commercial city, and, though it seems a contradiction in terms, these mutations have become an "institution." This year, we believe, there are to be fewer changes than on any moving day within the last decade, and yet there are more houses unlet than at the same time in any previous year. These facts indicate greater stability in the future, and it rents fall to a proper standard the result will be a return to the city of many families which have been living in the neighboring villages. It is very desirable that New York should keep as much of her population within her own limits as possible, and if the cost of dwellings is reduced so as to make the annual change less universal the return of others, which would quickly follow, will prove a great blessing in every way.

Moving day presents a question of political as well as domestic economy to the metropolis, and it is time we began to consider how we can prevent the annual depopulation of the city by devising means to properly house our population.

Justice à la Mode.

The closing of the defence in the Beecher case marks an important step in this great trial. With the testimony of General Tracy Mr. Everts closed his evidence for the defendant. It was hardly expected upon his part, as the imagination of the people had conjured up a series of spool witnesses—Mr. Bowen, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Woodhull, and, above all, Mrs. Tilton. The evidence of General Tracy does not seem to have been of any special consequence, except to allow Mr. Beach to avenge the wrongs of Judge Fullerton. It seems that during the administration of President Johnson Mr. Tracy, as the District Attorney of Brooklyn, instituted a suit against Mr. Fullerton, in which he was triumphantly acquitted, and so conducted the case that he incurred that gentleman's enmity. Mr. Beach, with that sense of fidelity to his brother practitioner which has marked his whole demeanor in this case, amply avenged Mr. Fullerton by submitting Mr. Tracy to a severe and impressive cross-examination. Common people, who are only interested in the administration of justice, may marvel that the quarrels of Mr. Fullerton and Mr. Tracy should be allowed to play so prominent a part in the trial of Mr. Beecher. But this case has gone beyond all precedent or control, and we must marvel at nothing. Witnesses who have suffered so much in the way of cross-examination at the hands of the lawyers will look with complacency upon one attorney torturing another. Now, however, that Mr. Beach has cross-examined Tracy, the interests of a fair fight, if not of justice and fair play, demand that Mr. Tracy should be allowed to examine Mr. Beach. That would be exciting.

There has been much disappointment because of the failure of Mr. Everts to call Mrs. Tilton as a witness. The Herald has always contended that without the testimony of Mrs. Tilton there could be no proper verdict in this case. We urged upon the Legislature the necessity of passing a law to enable her to testify. It is a matter concerning not only her own honor, but that of her children, and she, of all persons in the world, can say whether or not she has been guilty of the crime of adultery. It seems especially cruel, also, that Mr. Tilton should be allowed, by statements and cards to the press and interviews with reporters and days of examination and cross-examination on the witness stand, to fasten upon his wife a charge which had only come to him at best from hearsay, and she should not be permitted to make her defence. This seemed to be an enormity in our law. A bill was introduced into the Legislature to so amend the law of evidence that Mrs. Tilton should be called. The Committee on the Judiciary reported against it, for good reasons, no doubt, and it fell through. As soon as the defence closed Mr. Beach, with admirable tact, announced upon the part of the plaintiff that there would be no objection to Mrs. Tilton taking the stand. As a master stroke in the conduct of the case this move of Mr. Beach's was superb, and the impression it will make upon the people generally will be unfavorable to Mr. Beecher. At the same time we do not see how Mrs. Tilton could have been, even by the consent of the counsel, with a statute expressly against her, competent to testify. This especially with the still further fact that the Legislature, the law-making power, had refused to amend this act. Whatever the value of Mrs. Tilton's evidence may be in this case the law is the law, and it is the master of us all. We do not see, therefore, how it could be competent for Mr. Everts on one side and Mr. Beach on the other, and Judge Neilson as a consenting party, to make any agreement that would violate the law. Without pretending to a knowledge of the subtle ethics of the legal profession we do not see, either, how an attorney could seriously propose an act which he knew to be directly in contravention with the laws of the State which he has sworn to defend.

At the same time the policy of Mr. Beach in offering Mrs. Tilton will produce profound effect throughout the country. Mr. Everts made the best answer in his power, the only answer, in fact. He might have commented, perhaps, on the anxiety of Mr. Tilton's counsel to add still further to the measureless pain and sorrow and suffering that has fallen upon this woman through this extraordinary trial of an examination under oath. This, perhaps, he reserves for a still further occasion. The disappointment in not hearing the evidence of Mrs. Tilton, especially among those who have long ceased to regard it as a trial, but as an exhibition, will be sincere. There is a hope, however, that we shall have Mr. Bowen and Mrs. Woodhull and Mr. Stephen Pearl Andrews and probably General Butler. We do not think there could be four livelier witnesses. Under proper treatment of General Butler, for instance, in the process of a cross-examination by Mr. Everts, there would be a great deal of amusement. Mr. Bowen is said to be suffused with information which oozes out at the approach of every reporter of the press. It is scarcely expected Mr. Beach will fail to call him after the terrible onslaught made by Mr. Tracy in the opening. Mr. Bowen owes it to himself to become a witness, to state what he knows, and he must know a good deal affecting the reputation and conduct of all the parties to this suit. The evidence for rebuttal cannot last very long. As it looks now we shall have a verdict by the middle of May, and then be enabled to live once again like Christian people and enjoy the blessings of the summer and spring.

The Moral of the Flames.

Nothing could be more distressing in its way than this fire at Oskosh, Wis. We have had so many achievements in the way of large conflagrations that it is scarcely worth while dwelling upon "an estimated loss of two millions of dollars." Chicago and Boston and Philadelphia have all done infinitely better in the way of the destruction of property. There is scarcely a month that passes in which New York does not exceed this figure. It is painful to look over the lines which trace on the map of this young and growing town and find so large a space in the very heart of it marked as "the burned

district." A fire like this occurring after a long period of depression and business prostration, and in the beginning of a prosperous spring season, is not only a calamity to those upon whom it has fallen but a distress to the whole region. We suppose it is a necessity of our civilization that we should build these thin, unsubstantial dwellings which fall before the first gale or crackle in the first flame. With the nomadic tendency of our people, their disposition to float from town to town and State to State, seeking that ideal West, which was the romance of so many, it is hard to expect them to build dwellings that will last longer than a year or two. If such dwellings are built there will be fires like this at Oskosh. The marvel is that we do not have them every day in other parts of the country.

The moral of the disaster should be the necessity of reconstructing our cities and building houses that will exist for generations, and so defy the flames by making it impossible for them to do their dreadful work.

Speaker McGuire.

It would be a pleasant alleviation of editorial toils if we could always obey the apostolic precept not to "speak evil of dignities." We are sincerely sorry that Speaker McGuire comes across our path and obstructs our wish to cultivate an amiable temper toward "all in authority." The best we can do is to pray for him; we cannot approve him. He will give us no opportunity to do the latter. With the persistency of a jack-in-the-box he is no sooner down in one scrape than he pops up again in another. A few weeks ago the Governor excited his pugnacity. Then his "whoop" was heard, and his high St. Patrick's Day beaver was thrown into the Tammany Ring. A few days ago he slapped the floor as an invitation for Assemblyman Davis to "come on." Yesterday his coat was off for a round with democratic newspapers in general and Assemblyman Daly in particular. We are commanded by a high authority not to speak evil of dignities; but Speaker McGuire has no dignity to be spoken of at all, and the command cannot apply to him. We recognize and half admire his talents as a hot legislative skirmisher. He is as unique in his way as Bessie Turner was on the witness stand, and Bessie Turner is perhaps as well qualified for the position of Speaker of the Assembly as Jeremiah McGuire. When the Tilton-Woodhull women's rights millennium comes we may have a Bessie Turner as Speaker of the New York Assembly, and her impulsive liveliness may be as edifying as that of the irrepressible member for Chemung. Bessie in breeches could not be more glib-tongued, audacious or inconsiderate than the fluent, inarticulate Speaker who comes down from his chair to delight in a Donnybrook shindy on the floor of the House. Satan may fathom his motives, but we cannot. We could understand a Bessie Turner in trousers, whose spiteful impudence and gush, and the attention it would excite, might minister to the ill-regulated vanity of an undisciplined young woman. But how a man with a beard on his face can make such a display passes comprehension. Bessie McGuire is an enigma. At Donnybrook the character might be familiar enough. The McGuire in his shirt sleeves, dragging his coat through the crowd, extending to the company a general invitation to tread on its tail, and giving point to the request by the expert twirl of a shillalah, would be understandable. The McGuire in a deliberative assembly, armed with the gavel of a presiding official and constantly shouting, "Who'll knock the chip off my shoulder?" is a puzzle. Such a character in such a body is as much out of place as a bulldog in a lady's boudoir.

There is nothing to object to in the mere act that the Speaker comes down from his chair to take part in the debates. It is one of his rights as a member. But he has no right to desert his dignity when he leaves the chair. When he participates in the debates, which he should do but rarely and only on great occasions, he should set an example of the dignity, courtesy, wisdom and argumentative pertinence which befit parliamentary discussions. He dishonors his position if he indulges in offensive personal flings. It is inexcusable for him to make violent, truculent attacks on persons who are not present to defend themselves. It is a violation of parliamentary propriety for any member, let alone the Speaker, to make a vehement assault on a member of the other House, as Mr. McGuire did on Senator Jacobs, or on the Chief Magistrate of the State, as he did on the Governor. It matters not whether his personal vituperation hit the mark or was wide of the mark, he had no right to launch out into personal vituperation at all and talk on the floor of the Assembly with the license of an irresponsible bar-room politician. A member who has been elevated to the position of presiding officer, and made the appointed guardian of dignity and decorum in debate, forfeits every title to respect when he appears on the floor as the hectoring bully of his fellow members and the assailant of gentlemen not present who occupy high and responsible positions in the State government. A Speaker who leaves the gavel and brandishes the shillalah, like a wild, untamed Irishman, is a spectacle never seen before, and we trust, never to be seen again in the Legislature of New York.

Another Grievance.

When Mayor Wickham tendered the position of Commissioner of Public Works to General Fitz John Porter there was a loud wail from the Fourth Avenue improvement. The old statesmen of the empire of past years who have been digging and building and faithfully completing this fine roadway have been patiently waiting that return of Tammany to power which would give them the prominence they held in days when the exile of Blackwell's Island was master of New York. But instead of going into the Fourth Avenue improvement and selecting a representative statesman like Harry Genet, or Mike Norton, or Tom Fields, Mayor Wickham took a curled darling of the Manhattan Club, who was not even a resident of New York, and gave to him the first place in his gift. The anger was so intense and the resentment was so widespread at the appointment that it was reported that this would be the end of the Manhattan Club politics.

Now it seems that the Mayor has offered one of the police commissionerships to General Smith, better known as "Baldy" Smith,

who served under McClellan in the Peninsula, and afterward became a bitter critic of General Grant. General Smith is another curled darling of the Manhattan Club, who has never had any sympathy with the genuine democracy in New York, and who probably does not know the difference between the Fourth and Eleventh wards, nor whether Mullingar is in the north or south of Ireland. We have no doubt that he will make an efficient Police Commissioner, that he is a gentleman of learning; but what sympathy has he with the Fourth Avenue improvement statesmen? What idea has he in common with the eighty thousand of the democracy who vote for the party whether it rains or shines? Are we to believe that, under the new régime, there is to be a peerage in the democracy for the good of the Manhattan Club? Are they to be given all the offices, all the contracts, all the opportunities for distinction and wealth, while the mere voting people are to have no opportunity but that afforded by such useful and stern employments as building stone walls on the Fourth Avenue improvement for two dollars a day? If Mayor Wickham is resolved upon this policy we shall have livelier times ahead in local campaigns than have been dreamed of for many a day.

How Shall We Clean the Streets of New York?

The street cleaning abuse has long been one of the most scandalous features of the New York city government. The taxpayers have been compelled to pay in the neighborhood of a million dollars a year for the expense of the Street Cleaning Bureau, and every year the condition of the streets has grown worse than the preceding year and the business has been more and more shamefully neglected. We have been going downward on a sliding scale until at last incompetency seems to have reached its lowest depth, and after a winter of inaction the summer is coming upon us to find our streets reeking with filth and pregnant with disease and death. It was bad enough during the winter and early spring to be compelled to submit to the inconvenience and annoyance of interrupted travel and almost impassable sidewalks while officials who squander the public money were scarcely making a pretence of doing more than distribute the patronage of the department among ward politicians and country legislators. But now the incapacity and neglect of the bureau are a more serious matter, for they threaten the public health. The city is more filthy now than it has ever before been at this season of the year, and without a reform in the bureau or a change of system it is not likely to improve.

There is no doubt great difficulty in keeping New York clean. The wretched condition of some of the streets, full of holes that gather and retain the slush and filth, is one serious obstruction to the work. With common sense and common honesty we ought to be able to accomplish something with an outlay of a million dollars a year, or nearly two thousand seven hundred and forty dollars a day all the year round, Sundays included. But it is very certain that we get but little more return for the money than is realized in the support of a large army of political bummers. So many plans have been tried and failed that the people have about made up their minds to favor as entire new departure. This feeling has led to the suggestion of the entire abolishment of a Street Cleaning Department, as it now exists, and the passage of a law compelling the owners of property to keep the streets and roads clean, each owner being responsible for the condition of the sidewalk and half the roadway in front of his house and lot. The argument in favor of the plan is that the tax for a million dollars is collected of the property owners or taxpayers now and is thrown away, the streets scarcely being cleaned at all; that the expense of cleaning by each individual owner would be no heavier, and probably not nearly so heavy as the tax he has to pay, while the work would be done and the streets kept clean. When a property owner was compelled, under heavy penalties, to keep his own share of a street clean the money he paid out for that purpose would be spent on the work, and the people would have the benefit. While the tax he pays goes into the hands of incapable or unreliable officials the money is diverted from its legitimate purposes, becomes a political fund and the work is not done at all. There may be practical difficulties to be overcome in making the proposed system work; but it would seem almost as easy for a householder to clean the sidewalk and half the road in front of his house and lot as it is to remove the garbage and ashes from the interior of his house daily for the purpose of having it carried away. The carrying away of the street dirt would be done by contractors, who would realize a profit out of the loads and could make their own arrangements, if necessary, with the householders in the several localities. This system of making the property owners or householders do the street cleaning work themselves and bear the expense, enforcing the observance of the law by heavy penalties for neglect, would not, in the end, cost the taxpayer as much as he now pays for street cleaning and might at last insure us clean streets.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

The German Minister, Baron Schöller, expects to spend the summer in Europe.
Major George A. Gordon, United States Army, is quartered at the Statler House.
Baron Thiemann has been appointed Secretary of the German Legation in Washington.
Lieutenant Governor George G. Bid, of Connecticut, is staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Professors C. M. Mead and J. H. Thayer, of Andover, Mass., are registered at the Everett House.
The President will go to his farm in Missouri before he removes for the summer to Long Branch.
Postmaster General Marshall Jewell and family are residing temporarily at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Colonel Frederick A. Conkling is anxious to know why he was not invited to the Carli Schurz dinner.
Assemblymen F. W. Voorburgh and A. E. Wenzel arrived from Albany last evening at the Metropolitan Hotel.
Judge William J. Wallace, of the United States District Court for Northern New York, has arrived at the Hoffman House.
Vice President Wilson arrived in Louisville yesterday. General Harlan gave him a reception last night. To-day he goes to Lexington to visit Mr. John C. Breckenridge, who, as Vice President, presided over the Senate during one of Mr. Wilson's earlier terms.